

Message Text

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70

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 EB-07 SCA-01 H-02

INR-07 DLOS-04 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00

COME-00 /051 W

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P R 102122Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9004

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: F/V ANNA MARIA: POSSIBLE COMPLAINT ON FISHING LICENSES

REF: GUAYAQUIL 0224, QUITO 1171

1. THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN BOATS BUYING ECUADORIAN FISHING LICENSES THIS YEAR AND PUBLIC CRITICISM OF FOREIGN VESSELS FISHING IN ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED WATERS (EVEN WITH ECUADOREAN LICENSES) COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSE FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DECISION TO REFUSE AN EXTENSION OF F/V ANNA MARIA'S FISHING LICENSE. (SEE QUITO 1171.) BEFORE MAKING EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOE OFFICIALS IN QUITO, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT REPRESENTATION IS MERITED. WITH CURRENT FISHING POOR, ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS COULD PARANOICALLY SUSPECT FOREIGN FISHERMEN OF SEEKING WAYS TO EXTEND PERIOD OF FISHING LICENSES, PERHAPS BY HARMING EQUIPMENT AND SEEKING SHIP REPAIRS.

2. POLCOUNS HAS APPOINTMENT WITH CAPTAIN ETIEL RODRIGUEZ, WHO IS STILL OCCUPYING OFFICE OF SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES, AT 5 PM ON THURSDAY, FEB 12. PRIOR TO DISCUSSING QUESTION WITH HIM, REQUEST CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSS DECISION WITH WILSON ARROYO TO BE CERTAIN WE HAVE ALL THE FACTS AND IF POSSIBLE PERSUADE HIM TO REVERSE HIS DECISION. WE ALSO WISH TO BE CERTAIN THAT EXTENSIONS HAVE BEEN GRANTED ROUTINELY
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IN SIMILAR CASES IN THE PAST.

3. SHOULD CONSUL GENERAL BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING
REVERSAL OF DECISION AND WE ARE SURE THAT EXTENSIONS HAVE
BEEN GRANTED IN SUCH CASES IN THE PAST, POLCOUNS WILL ATTEMPT
TO OBTAIN EXTENSION OF BOAT'S LICENSE WHEN HE CALLS ON
SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES.
BREWSTER

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